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Muscle Shoals Baptist Association

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Birmingham, Alabama

Muscle Shoals Baptist Association

v. 1. 1850

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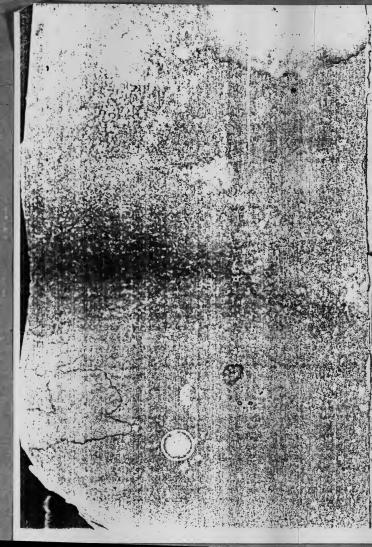
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MINUTES

OF

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION,

0 F

BESSEGARY PAPTISTS,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT MOUNT PLEASANT, LAWRENCE COUNTY,

OCTOBER 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th, 1855.



OFFICERS:

REV. R. B. BURLESON, MODERATOR.
REV. W. H. BARKSDALE, CLERK.
DEACONL. D. MASSENGALE, TREASURER.
DEACONA. HOUK, TREASURER OF BENEFICIARY FUND.



TUSCUMBIA: William Rollston, Printer, A. Alabamian Office. 1855.



MINUTES.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 5, 1855.

The delegates composing the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Muscle Shoals Association, convened to-day, with the Mt. Pleasant church, Lawrence co., Ala.

Introductory Sermon was preached at 11 o'clock, by Rev. J. Gunn, from Gal. 6: 10: "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men." Association then adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

AFTER-NOON, 2 O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. D. Breidenthal. The former Moderator, Rev. R. B. Burleson, in the chair. The clerk being absent, on motion Brother M. W. Mays was appointed Clerk pro tem.

1. Letters from churches were then called for, and Brother D.

Breidenthal and Barksdale appointed to read them.

2. Salem Church being called for, Brother Verser stated that he was a delegate, but without a letter from said church, assigning his reasons. Upon motion he was invited to a seat.

3. Proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the appointment of Rev. R. B. Burleson, Moderator, and

Rev. W. H. Barksdale, Clerk.

4. Appointed standing committees as follows:

On Devotional Exercises—A. Jarman, Jno. Alexander, E. Elett, G. Fowler, Isaac N. Owen, and Rev. W. H. Barksdale, (Pastor Mt. Pleasant Church.)

On Missions—Rev. W. Thomas, A. Houk, and Rev. J. Sherrill. On Education—Rev. D. Breidenthal, J. Wise, and Rev. M. A.

Verser.

On Finance—L. D. Massengale, Thos. Ashford, Robt. Childs and

A. Houk.
On Documents—A. W. Herring, Jno. Alexander, and Rev. J. K.

Lynn.
State of Religion—Rev. J. C. Roberts, H. Reeves, and Rev. A. H.

Verser. Sabbath Schools—Rev. J. Gunn, A. W. Herring, and Rev. Wood-

lief Thomas.

Committee of Arrangements—A. Houk, A. G. Partlow, L. D. Massengale.

5. Bro. E. T. Van House being present was invited to a seat

with us.

6. On motion adjourned until Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Woodlief Thomas.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Praver by Rev. J. K. Lynn.

1. On motion, letters not presented on yesterday were called for, read, and names of delegates enrolled.

2. Called the roll and marked absentees.

3. Called for the report of the committee of Arrangements, which comittee recommended the order of business as it stands upon the minutes of the preceeding year; being received, the committee was discharged.

4. Called for petitionary letters. One was presented from the Cherry Hill Church, which was read, received and the right hand

of fellowship extended by the Moderator.

5. Called for letters from Corresponding bodies. Two were received, one from Liberty without delegates, and one from Big Bear Creek by the hands of Brother Jno. Leigh, was read and received, and Father Leigh invited to sit with us also. A package of Minutes from North River Association was presented.

6. Brother Breidenthal asked permission to read a letter and circular from the Corresponding Secretary of the Bible Board, located in Nashville, Tennessee, which being granted, the letters were read and a committee appointed to take the subject of said communication under consideration. This committe consisted of five, Rev. Woodlief Thomas, Lynn, Jennings, Gunn, and Breidenthal.

7. Invited visiting Brethren to seats with us, which was accepted by Rev. A. L. Stovall, Rev. G. D. Russel, Rev. Wiley Read,

Rev. W. II. Cooper.

8. Called for report of the President of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Female Institute at Moulton. The President being absent, farther time was granted.

9. Delegates from the General Association called for. All ab-

sent.

... 10. Called for report of Missionaries. Brother Verser reported as follows: Labored four months; attended 8 protracted meetings; Preached 57 sermons; delivered 54 exhortations; conducted 18 prayer meetings; baptised 22; Witnessed 52 conversions and 18 baptisms; assisted in ordaining one Deacon; sold books to the amount of \$23 75;

Donated \$5 40; and collected on subscription \$57 00.

11. A motion was made that a committee be appointed to ascertain the time and place of the Ministers and Deacons meeting of each district, and report to the Clerk, who shall make it appear in the minutes. After a little consultation, said committee, consisting of Brethren Nunn, Roberts, Verser and Jennings, furnished your Clerk with the following notice of each: 1st District will hold its meeting at New Prospect, Friday before 4th Sabbath in April 1856. 2d District at Liberty, Friday before 3d Sabbath in April. 3d District, Friday before 1st Sabbath in May, Shoal Creek; 4th District, Friday before 2d Sabbath in July, at Browns Valley.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

1st. Appointed delegates to General Association, Rev. J. Gunn, Rev. W. H. Barksdale, and Brethren Ed. Ellett, L. D. Massengale, I. N. Owen, A. Houk, T. Ashford, J. N. Partlow, Jno. Alexander, and Rev. A. Jennings.

Liberty Association-L. D. Massengale, T. Ashford, W. H. Barksdale.

Big Bear Creek-W. Thomas, Jno. Sherell, and Jno. P. Craig.

North River Association-Jennings, Cagle, Bird. · Cherokee Association-G. Fowler, Cornelius, Verser.

Judson Association-M. W. Mays, E. R. Stanly, A. Jarman.

2. President of the Board of Trustees now being present, was called upon to report, which was read and received, but referred to a committee of eight for further action, to wit: A. Houk, L. D. Massengale, J. Gunn, W. M. Mays, G. Fowler, T. Ashford, J. W. Herring, and J. Milum.

On motin, Judge Peters was granted the privilege of making whatever explanation he may wish as to his manner of forming his

report, which he did quite satisfactorily.

5. No Circular Letter having been sent up, Brother Gunn was requested by the Association to furnish his introductory sermon in lieu thereof for publication in the Minutes.

Called for report on the State of Religion, which was read and

adopted as follows:

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The committee on the State of Religion beg leave to report, that from the information conveyed to us by the letters from the Churches of the Association, that God has signally blessed us during the past Associational year, by pouring out His spirit upon us, and building up the cause of Zion, by adding scores to her borders in a large majority of the Churches. For such blessings we feel that our grateful acknowledgments should be tendered to Him who the donor of all our blessings.

J. C. ROBERTS, Chair

8. Committee on Documents called for, and by request was

9. Brother Fowler offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, composed of one member from each District, to take into consideration the propriety of centralizing the Association as much as will be practicable.

10. Appointed on that committee E. Ellett, T. Ashford, Reeves

and G. Fowler.

11. Called for report of the committee appointed at the las Association, on the case of non-fellowship, between Guntersvill and Shilo churches. Brother Fowler being Chairman, reported a follows:

The undersigned, a member of the committee appointed at the last Association to visit Guntersville Church, for the purpose of trying to adjust the case of non-fellowship, beg leave to report, that efforts have been made on the part of two of the committee, to accomplish the desired object; but they failed of success. Johnson has not made satisfactory acknowledgments to the Shilo Church, and the Guntersville Church has not excluded Johnson.

G. FOWLER.

12. A motion made and carried, that inasmuch as Guntersville church refused to hear the advice of the Association, but continues to retain in her fellowship, a brother guilty of charges which caused his expulsion from a sister church, without requiring him first to be reconciled, and restored by the former as has been from time immemorial, the custom of all Baptist churches.

3. A motion was offered and carried, that the Association should adjourn until 3 o'clock P. M., thus giving an hour for preaching before the business of the Association be resumed. Benediction by

the Moderator.

SATURDAY EVENING 3 O'CLOCK:

After divine services by the Rev. Woodlief Thomas, the Associa-

tion again convened by singing.

1st Items of business, was a letter from Florence church, which was presented by Brother J. Portlock, announcing the sad intelligence, that so many of their members had moved away as to render it expedient for them to dissolve the church, and letter out the few remaining ones, who thus would be privileged to connect themselves with any other branch of our Zion where they could have "the bread of life" broken unto them.

2. Brother Portlock invited to a seat with us.

3. Report on education called for, upon which Brother Breidenthal arose and made a verbal one, which not being satisfactory, was reversed back to him, and time granted him to report.

4. Called for report on Devotional exercises, which was made as follows: Prayer meeting Sunday morning at half after 9 o'clock, Father Jno. Leigh to conduct it; Rev. A. L. Stovall to preach at 11 o'clock, Rev. R. B. Burleson at 3, Rev. W. H. Cooper at night.

5. Called for report of committee on locating the Association,

which was read and adopted as tollows:

The committee oppointed to consult upon the propriety of making the sittings of the Association as central as possible, beg leave to report that in the opinion of the committee, it is important that the Association meet in a place as central as may be.

EDMUND ELLETT, Chairman.

On motion the association was appointed to be held next year with Enon church on Friday before 1st Sabbath in October.

7. On motion Brother Wm. H. Barksdale, was appointed to preach the next introductory sermon, and Brother Woodlief Thomas his alternate.

8. On motion, brother W. H. Cooper was appointed to write next

circular letter, and brother J. Gunn his alternate.

9. On motion it was suggested that the Trustees of the Moulton Female Institute, who are not members of the Association, be permitted to participate, if necessary, in the discussion that may come up in regard to their report made by the President of said Board. After some discussion the motion was withdrawn, with the understanding that if necessary, said motion might again be presented at its proper time for the consideration of this body.

10. Brother Gunn offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we recommend to the churches of this Association, granting church letters, to write them as valid for one year only, and that when a member joins another by letter, the clerk of the latter should write to the clerk of the former and inform him of the fact, which, after some animated discussion was lost.

11. On motion adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock. Pray-

er by Brother W. H. Cooper.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

Father Leigh conducted the prayer meeting, which was well attended.

Brother A. L. Stovall preached at 11 o'clock, to a crowded house, with a pathos of melting tenderness, as he looked over his congregation of old acquaintances and new formed friends, and adverted to the past, present, and future, and then the glory which awaits those who are kept sacred by the hope of the gospel. The 3 o'clock sermon was preached by our esteemed Brother, R. B. Burleson, being an exposition of the prophecy of Daniel. Brother W. Cooper preached at night to an attentive audience. We

much good was accomplished, and many pious relations former through the instrumentality of to-days labor.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, 13

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer b Brother Jno. Leigh.

1. Called names of delegates and marked absentees. in the call

2. Called for report on Sabbath Schools, which was read by the chairman, and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that in their opin ion, the Sabbath School is one of the most important of all enterprizes, and

that its importance arises from the following facts:

1st. The moral and religious training it affords to all connected with it, both as teachers and pupils. For in the Sabbath School all the minds connected with it, are directly turned to the investigation of God's holy word.—And thus truth is developed, which is bound to make the very best of all impressions upon the mind.

2nd. From the fact that the library connected with a Sabbath School affords a good supply of reading matter, adapted to all classes of the commu-

mity, and calculeted to make men wise unto salvation.

3rd. From the fact that by employing the youth of our country in Sabbath Schools, we thereby prevent them from letting their precious time run to waste, keep them from bad company, and avert a vast amount of evil.

1th. From the fact that men can teach the word of God in the Sabbath School, who cannot preach the word of life from the pulpit. And by this means we may employ a far greater number of useful men in the greatwork of communicating the truth of God to the minds of dying men.

Therefore, resolved, that we carnestly recommend to every church in this Association to establish Sabbath Schools in their midst, at the earliest possible

day.

Resolved, further, that we feel this to be a duty that we, as christians, owe to our children, to ourselves, to our country, and to our God.

J. GUNN, Chairman.

3. Called for report on documents, which was read by the chairman, received, and ordered back to the committee with brother Jas.

Wise and J. Gu in added to it.

4. Called for report on missions, which was read by the chairman and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

We, as christians, feel deeply the great importance of supplying all the world with the preached word of life. We regard it as our imperative duty to exert our utmost powers to furnish the needy everywhere with the precious bread of life; but we think that the destinate of our own immediate section of country, have the first and strongest claims upon our christian benevolence.

The efforts of this Association to provide for the spiritual wants of the estitute are truly laudable and Christ like; but we think that we could and

ought to do much more than we have heretofore done, for this most benificent purpose.

As our present missionary plan is accomplishing the objects contemplated by it better than any we have previously tried, we therefore heartily recommend its continuance with increased liberality and energy.

We also recommend that all reasonable efforts be made to again secure the services of our picus, faithful, and indefatigable brother, E. T. VANHOOSE, as

General Agent and Missionary for the Association at large.

We further recommed, that the Missionaries employed in the several Districts of the Association, be especially instructed, not to confine their labors to the destitute Churches, but also to preach in destitute neighborhoods, wherever they may think good can be done, and assist in holding protracted meetings wherever it may be convenient.

And lastly, in view of the great blessings which God has so freely bestowed upon us during this year, that we earnestly solicit from the Churches of this Association more liberal contributions for the support of this most noble enter-

prize. Respectfully submitted.

W. THOMAS, Chairman. 5. Brother H. Atkinson having arrived, read the letter from

Cane Creek church, and had the delegates names enrolled.

6. Called for report on Education, which was read by its chairman, and after some discussion was referred back to the said committee, with instructions to strike out the clause recommending Female Education to private individual interest, and to add a clause recommending the Female Institute at Moulton to the patronage of the Association.

7. Called for report of the committee on the Beneficiary Fund,

which was read and adopted as follows:

BENEFICIARY FUND.

Your committee, appointed at the last Session of this body, to examine applicants for the beneficiary fund, beg leave to make the following report:

There were two applicants for the fund, viz: brother Napoleon Bailey, and brother Wallace, who, from the certificates which they bore to us of their moral standing, victy, and the approbation of their churches, together with the examination they passed before us in regard to their call to the ministry, we, as your committee, deemed them worthy, and paid over to them the money in our hands for that purpose.

Amount of money received up to date, \$72 00 paid to them, yet on subscription list, -10 00-

Deficiency from mistake in calculation, \$5 00 J. GUNN, Chailman.

8. The committee appointed to take into consideration the report of the President of the Board of Trustees, recommended that it should be referred back to the President, in accordance with his

The committee on Education again reported which was r

dially received:

REPORT ON THE SUBJECT OF EDUCATION.

The committee on the subject of education, beg leave to report:

For the condition of our Female Institute, the committee would refer to the

report of the Board of Trustees of that institution.

The subject of education is so important in itself, has such an important bearing upon the interests of our cause, that it has not failed to receive the attention of this body at its regular sittings. It is matter of historic fact, that for causes beyond our control as a denomination, we have not heretofore enjoyed the facilities of education, as other denominations have done. In England, while the Episcopalians had the advantage of their National Universitics, supported by the Government, and sustained by the wealth, partiality, and royal munificence of the nation, Baptists were not permitted to have schools, regularly established, and in which degrees could be conferred. In Scotland our Presbyterian brethren derived their educated ministry from the national schools of Scotland. Thus, while the Church of England, and through it the Methodists; and the Presbyterians through the Universities of Scotland, have obtained, in former times, their educated men for the pulpit, Baptists were interdicted the privilege of having their schools of high character; were not only unassisted, but positively restricted in their educational efforts. Yet we were not destitute, even then, of great meh. We had even then, under such inauspicious circumstances, men whose fame is now upon the tongue of nations. Such men as our Gill, Hall, Foster, Fuller, Cary, Toplady, Bunyan and Milton. These men, inspired by the holy fires of genius, and moved by God's almighty grace, unassisted and alone, climed the rugged steeps, as Alps on Alps arose, till arrived at the summit's proud sunlight they stood, and left the world beneath them, for all time to look up and admire.

In later times, when freed from the restrictions of arbitrary enactments. Baptists have exceeded all other denominations in their educational efforts, and it is only left to us, that having begun a good work to go on to perfection;

It should never be forgotten, however, that all of our school interests should be carried on, in subserviency to the cause of Christ, in our hands. Education should be to us a means, and not an end. In all our efforts in education we should inquire what course will best promote the cause of Christ in our hands? Our efforts in education should be chiefly directed to the preparation of young men for the Ministry. Male education has a direct bearing upon the advancement of our cause—female education only an indirect bearing. It is well, it is even beneficial, to see a Miss in the sparkling and prettiness of her teens, playing brilliantly upon the piano, and fluently reading French; but to him who has the cause of God at heart, it is much more interesting, deemed much more important, to see a young man with his heart full of the love of Christ, speaking in plan, simple Saxon, to dying men of the cross of Christ, of heaven and of perdition!

In conclusion, we would call the attention of the Association to the importance of an inquiry into the condition of our bepeficiaries. We recommend to the Association the propriety and importance of Female education, and to rally around our Female Institute at Moulton. All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. BREIDENTHAL

10. Report on Documents again read, and adopted as follows: and

Dear Brethren: We, your committee on documents, would recommend that

with regard to the suggestions of the Courtland and Moulton churches, about the wants of colored people, our pastors preach to them on Sabbath evenings after their morning's service is over.

With regard to the resolutions of the Minister's and Deacon's meetings, it is the opinion of the committee, that their plans are impracticable, and would

prove injurious to the Missionary operations.

We find by examination, that the Florence and Friendship churches are dissolved. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. HERRING, Chairman.

11. The President of the Board of Trustees being ready, was again called upon to report, which was received and adopted as follows:

BAPTIST FEMALE INSTITUTE AT MOULTON.

To the Muscle Shoals Association, of Baptists, convened at Mount Pleasant Church, Lawrence county, Alabama.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Baptist Female Institute at Moulton, I beg leave respectfully to submit the following as their Annual report:

Since the date of the last Annual Report of the Trustees to the Associa-

tion, they have had four meetings.

At their meeting on the 21st of December, 1854, John Pruit, a member of the Board, tendered his resignation, which was accepted, and thereupon the Board unanimously elected Asa Hodges of Moulton, a Trustee, to supply the vacancy thus occasioned.

And at their meeting on the 2nd of October 1855, the Board unanimously elected Henry W. Warren of Moulton, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the

death of James Armstrong, a former member of the Board.

By reference to the last annual report of the Trustees, which bears date the 30th day of September, 1854, it will be seen that Elder Richard B. Burleson was only continued as the Principal of the Institute until the end of the Fall session of 1854, which terminated on the 23 of December of that year. This rendered some further action of the Board necessary in reference to the Principal at their meeting on the 21st December 1854. Therefore at this meeting, the following Trustees being present, viz: Thomas M. Peters, Isaac N. Owen, Amos Jarman, James Armstrong, Aaron A. Burleson, Jas. Wise, Isaac Van Eaton, William McKelvy, John N. Walker and Asa Hodges.

The Board by resolution to that effect, continued Elder R. B. Burleson as

Principal of the Institution.

Under this resolution, the Principal, (elder R. B. Burleson,) assisted by Miss Francis A. Kellum in the literary department, and by Mrs. Susan W. Leigh in the department of Music, resumed his duties in the Institute as Principal, at the commencement of the Spring session of the present year, and conducted the school until the end of that session, which terminated on the last Wednesday in June 1855.

During this session, there were fifty students entered at the Institute, and the session closed under more promising indications than attended the school since

its commencement.

The resignation of Mrs. Leigh was tendered, and accepted. At that time the Board also requested the Principal to continue the services of Miss Kellum as assistant teacher at the Institute, and appointed a committee of their

body to procure a competent teacher to take charge of the department of Music, which resulted in retaining the services of Prof. William II. Morrison for the session then next ensuing.

On the 20th day of August 1855, the Board again came together, when the Board regret to say, the Principal tendered his resignation, which was finally

accepted.

The Board then appointed a committee to secure the services of another Principal and assistant teacher for the Institute; but up to the present, this committee have not succeeded in accomplishing the duty imposed upon them; consequently no school has been opened at the Institute for the present session, which should have begun on the 1st Monday in September last.

By reference to the annual report of the Board, bearing date the 30th of September 1853, it will appear that the contractor, (Thomas D. Lineard,) who first undertook the erection of the Institute edifice, suspended work under his contract in October 1852, and wholly abandoned it about the first of November afterward. On the 25th of February 1853, Mr. Lineard [as plaintiff] instituted suit for \$4865 in the Circuit Court of Lawrence County, Alabama, against Richard B. Burleson, Isaac N. Owen, and William McKelvy [as defendents,] who were members of the Building Committee, that had contracted with Mr. Lineard for the erection of the Edifice for the Institute. This suit was prosecuted against the defendants until the 26th of March 1855, at the spring term of said Circuit Court in that year, when it was dismissed by the plaintiff at his costs. In the management of this suit the defendents necessarily required the assistance of competent attorneys at law to prepare and conduct their defence, and in procuring such attorneys they incurred an expense of \$200 for their attorneys fees. They also agreed, through their attorneys, to pay said Lineard or his attorneys, upon the dismissal of said suit, the additional sum of \$100, which made the expense of said litigation on their part, \$300, besides costs. As this liability was incurred, by the committee, in the proper discharge of the duties of an agency created by the Board for the purpose of the corporation, and undertaken at their request, and conducted with their approbation, it is such a charge against the corporation as the Board could not justly repudiate.

Without going into details touching the finances of the corporation, for which there is not space in this Report, I beg leave further to submit, that it appears from the Report of Franklin C. Owen, the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, made on the 29th of September, 1855, that there has been collected on subscription for the Instisute the sum of \$5,373 42, and that the Treasurer has paid out on account of the Institute the sum of \$5,561 17, and besides this last named sum the Treasurer has assumed for the Institute, the further sum of \$150; -making the sum paid out and the sum assumed amount in the aggregate to the sum of \$5,711,17. And it further appears from the report of the Treasurer aforesaid, that there yet remains a debt against the corporation of \$1280 19, which is unpaid. To meet this indebtedness, the Board of Trustees have no funds, save what may be realized from collections upon subscriptions yet outstanding and unpaid. These subscriptions are nominally estimated at \$988 47, but it is believed that not more than between two and three hundred dollars can be obtained from this source; as most of the subscriptions are insolvent, or repudiated by the persons in whose names they seem to have heen made. Thus it appears that thre yet remains an indebtedness againsnt the corporation of about \$1000, which should be provided for in order to free

the corporation from debt, and its valuable property from the danger of sacrifice. It may be proper to add, that in the above estimate of indebteness, is included the sum of \$300, expenses incurred by the building committee as above mentioned.

At their meeting on the second of October 1855, already referred to, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution declaring the indebtedness above said. a proper charge against the corporation, and directed the appropriation of such funds as might be derived from the residue of subscriptions uncollected

to its payment.

I beg further to report, that the Board, at present consists of the following persons, viz: Thomas M. Peters, Isaac N. Owen, Amos Jarman, Levi L. Warren, Charles Gibson, Aaron A. Burleson, Eggleston D. Towns, James Wise, Isaac Van Eaton, William McKelvy, John N. Walker, Asa Hodges and Henry W. Warren; -of these, Thomas M. Peters, Isaac N. Owen, Amos Jarman, Levi F. Warren, Charles Gibson, Aaron A. Burleson, and Eggleston D. Towns, were members of the Board at the time of incorporation; the others have been since appointed by the Association or elected by the Board to fill vacancies. All of which is respectfully submitted.
THOMAS M. PETERS, President of Board of Trustees.

Moulton, Ala., Oct. 7th, 1855.

On motion, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions in reference to the death of Brother J. H. Edmiston; said committee consisting of Brethren Jennings, W. H. Cooper, and W. H. Davis.

Brother Gunn offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association learns, with deep regret, that our beloved Brother and Moderator, RICHARD B. BURLESON, is about to remove

Resolved, That we regard his removal as a great loss to this Association. with which he has been long connected as a Minister, and for several years past as Principal of our Female Institute at Moulton, and over which he has

thrice presided as Moderator.

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Resolved, That we cordially recommend him to the brotherly love and confidence of our denomination, and of all others with whom his lot may hereafter be cast, not only as a Christian and Minister, but as a learned scholar and faithful and energetic teacher.

14. On motion adjourned until half after 1 o'clock, P. M. the state of the second st

11 O'CLOCK IN AFTER-NOON.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. A.

1. The committee appointed at the last meeting of the Association to consider and report upon the mode of electing the Trustees of the Baptist Femsle Institute at Moulton, and also to define their duties and powers, submitted their report, which after some debate was received, and adopted with an amendment, which appears in the report as here presented:

REPORT ON THE MODE OF ELECTING TRUSTEES, &c.

To the Muscle Shoals Association, convened at Mount Pleasant:

Your committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Association, to consider and report upon the mode of electing the Trustees of the Baptist Female Institute at Moulton, and also to! define their duties and powers, beg leave to report the following, which, in their opinion, embraces such recom-

mendations as will best subserve the interests of the lustitute, viz:

That the Association, at its present session elect thirteen Trustees for said Institute, classified as to their tenure of office in the following manner, to wit: Five of the number chosen to hold office one year, or until the next meeting of the Association; four for two years, and the remaining four for three years, which shall be the regular term of office—the Association thus electing one third of the members of the board annually. The propriety of thus choosing

the Trustoes, we think too obvious to require comment,

Your committee are further of opinion, that it would be difficult to offer a fuller or more satisfactory enumeration of the powers and duties of the Trustees, than that which may be found in the Act of incorporation, nearly in these words: "The said Board of Trustees, and their successors, shall have power to elect, from time to time, one of their own members as President, and also a Secretary and Treasurer; to define the duties of each, and exact from the Treasurer a bond for the faithful performance of his duty. They shall also have power to procure and select suitable and competent teachers, prescribe the course of study, fix terms of tuition and grant diplomas of scholarship in and for said Institute, in such a manner as they may deem proper. And they shall have full and ample power to pass all such rules, regulations and by laws as they may deem necessary and proper for the management and government of said Corporation and school."

It might not be amiss however, to suggest, that a proper construction of the above, together with the other sections of the act of incorporation, would leave to be implied also, the power to adopt such means as they may deem proper and expedient to raise funds for the improvement or repair of the edifice, or for other purposes coming within the range of their expressed powers. The number constituting a quorum for the transaction of business is fixed in the Act of Incorporation, section 5, as follows: "That a majority in number of said Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all ordinary business; but it shall require the concurrence of two-thirds of their number to make choice of the Principal teacher in said Institute, or to dispose in any manner of the monies and property of said corporation above the value of one hundred dollars." Your committee are further of opinion, that it should require the concurrence of two-thirds of the Trustees to dismiss the principal teacher or President from the school. Our reasons for coming to this conclusion are too obvious to require comment, as it is universally acknowledged, that too frequent changes in those who preside over Institutions of this kind may cause great embarrassment, and result in much injury to the Institution.

It only remains for your committee to make a few suggestions in relation

to some of the duties devolving upon the Trustees.

They should exercise a general superintendence of all property belonging to said corporation. Bee that the building is kept in repair. At least three of their number to make regular visits to the school-room at least once a week, and assist the principal' teacher in making rules and regulations for the government of the school. And those who are appointed to visit the school to report to every stated meeting of the Board of Trustees. And it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees, through their President, or otherwise, to report to the Association, at each meeting of the same.

A. HOUK, Chairman. All of which is respectfully submitted.

2. Report on the circulation of the Bible called for, and after its reading was adopted, and ordered to be spread upon the minutes:

REPORT ON BIBLES.

Your committe on circulation of the Bible beg leave to report-

The social, political, and moral condition of a great majority of the human race loudly demands of the great body of christians to furnish them with the sacred scriptures. The southern Baptist convention has, through its board done, and is now doing much, to give to the nations of the world the printed word, We would recommend to this Association, to organize as soon as practicable, an Associational Bible society, auxiliary to the Bible Board of the southern Baptist convention. We also recommend that the pastors of the several churches, of this Association, be earnestly requested to preach to their respective congregations on Sabbath of their regular meeting in May next, on the subject of the circulation of the word of God, and that they upon that, or other occasions, solicit both public and private contributions, to aid in Bible distribution, which contributions shall be sent to Brother A. C. Dayton, Cor. Sec. of the Bible Board of the southern Baptist convention. Respectfully W. THOMAS, Chairman. submitted.

Report of agent read, received and adopted:

REPORT ON AGENCY.

Your Missionary begs leave to submit the following Report as a brief sketch of his labors within the bounds of the Association. The whole time has been occupied in the twofold relation of Agent and Missionary.

Assisted in the ordination of one Minister and two Deacons.

Attended eleven protracted meetings, some at churches where the question might have been asked "Can these dry bones live?" yet the breath of the living God was breathed upon them and truly might it have been said the dead is alive and God has healed the broken hearted.

There have been many conversions, the aggregate of which has not been

attempted to be kept.

Preached one hundred and thirty-six sermons and delivered many exhorta-

Baptised thirty and witnessed ninety-five baptisms.

Sold books to the amount of \$53 70, gave away to the amount of \$2 10. Though the blessings of God have been so graciously poured out, yet it has been within the bounds of the churches while the destitute regions, of which there are not a few, have been neglected, to which the attention of this body ought to be directed, for they are crying for the bread of life. All of whick is respectfully submitted.

E. T. VAN HOOSE. is respectfully submitted. ..

At your agent I would submit the following:

I have visited every church within the bounds, and the most of them in the first and second districts twice; raised by subscription eight; hundred and twelve dollars and thirty-eight cents. Collected five hundred and seventythree dollars and thirty- six cents. Balance not collected two, hundred and forty-two dollars and forty-five cents. All of which is respectfully submitted. E. T. VAN HO OSE.

4. On motion a committee was appointed to nominate the members of the Board of Trustees, consisting of W. Thomas, E. Ellett, D. Breidenthal, Verser, and G. Fowler.

Committee appointed to draft resolutions in reference to the memory of our late brother, J. H. Edmiston read their report,

which was adopted as follows:

Resolved, That we as brethren and delegates of the Muscle Shoals Assocition, have great reason to mourn the loss of our talented, energetic and pious Brother J. II. EDMISTON, who has labored so nobly, so energetically throughout the bounds of this and sister Associations, in the truly great and glorious cause of his and our Lord and Master; and while we deeply sympathise with his bereaved widow and orphaned children; commending them to the widows God and orphaus guide, we would feel loudly called upon by this bereavement to be like our beloved Brother, "ready to depart and be with Christ which is far better." Also

Resolved, That we exhibit our respect and sympathy for our departed Brother, by appointing a committee authorised to inclose in a suitable manner the last resting place of our beloved but now departed brother. The most

The brethren appointed on the committee to enclose in a suitable manner the grave of brother J. H. Edmiston, consisted of brethren Harris, Streeter, and Childs.

7. Brother Houk presented an account of \$84 against the Association, which upon motion, was ordered to be paid off in case a

surplus was left in the hands of the Treasurer.

8. Brother Gunn presented a resolution in reference to raising a beneficiary fund, which upon motion was postponed for another hour.

9. Brother Houk moved the Association that brother Verser be paid for five months service, instead of four; which was carried, for rea-

sons satisfactory to the Association.

10. Brother I. N. Owen moved the Association that the subscription of New Frienship church, and Browns' Valley church, consisting of \$25, being the amount donated to brother T. S. Carson at the last Association, should be made good to him, inasmuch as he failed to get the benefit of said amount. The Treasurer was directed to settle with him, if there should be a sufficiency in his hand.

11. Brother Gunn presented again his motion to raise a beneficiary fund of \$900 to be paid in three annual instalments.' After ananimated discussion by brethren Gunn, Breidenthal, Cooper, and others urging the motion upon the consideration of the Association,

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	23.81
the following individuals pledged the amounts as here present Amos Jarman, \$30 \\ \[\text{L.N.' Owen, 30} \]	nted:-
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'.'.' I. N. Owen,	00 , ,
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A. H. Stanley,30	00 ,
Jackson Gunn,30	00.
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Total \$380 :	25.
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many of the brethren, whose names do not appear on the l	ist, had
already pledged themselves for the same purpose to the gene	eral As-
sociation. Lab. with the of the contract of the contract of the contract of	· Ingla
13. The committee to nominate the Board of Trustees	submit-
ted their report, which was read and after some discussion was	as upon
motion referred back to the committee.	.12.
at 14, o Report of the committee on Finance read and adopted	d as fol-
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" " A. Houk, 84 65 86 66 67 W. H. Barksdale, for Minutes 55 80 68 15 68 68 15	1701 Jill Lui 2000 -

15. Brother Gunn offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we tender to the brethren and friends of Mt. Pleasant, our thanks for their kind hospitality during the setting of the Association.

16 Brother Houk moved that brother Lawrence and brother Lynn be granted \$50 each for services rendered by them during the After much discussion it was referred to the executive committee

17. On motion, brother Houk, J. Gunn, and W. H. Davis were appointed a committee to receive all moneys relating to the Beneficiary Fund.

Committee on Board of Trustees called for and reported; whereupon report was received, and after discussion was adopted:

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Your committee to nominate a new Board of Trustees, respectfully submit their report. They have selected the following brethreu, and arranged the time so that their term of office shall expire in one, two and three years, as

THIRD YEAR. "BECOND YEAR." FIRST YEAR. F. C. Owen, L. D. Massengale, W. F. Orr.

James Seward, John Alexander, G. C. G. Gewin,

James Streeter, George Hargett, H. Davis, M. W. Mays. J. B. Speaks. Joseph Herring. P. M. Musgrove. All of which is submitted.

D. BREIDENTHAL, Chairman. 1.19. A motion was made and carried to appoint a new Executive Board which should have the power of appointing Missionaries or Agents, assigning their field of labor, and fixing their salaries consisting of Thos: Ashford, E. R. Stanley, L. D. Massengale, A. G.

Owen, and F. C. Owen, por path band beat on a hide stronger about her Brother Verser asked information in regard to an action of Blue Spring church, The Association sanctioned her proceedings in the case as represented by him.

On motion, 1500 copies of the Minutes were ordered to be published, and the following brethren appointed to distribute them in their respective districts, viz: C. Wamble in the 1st District; I. N. Owen in 2d District; A. Houk in 3, and M. A. Verser 4th.

On motion it was ordered that Brother W. H. Barksdale be paid \$20 for his services as Clerk of this Association...

23. Resolved, That the Clerk be requested to write corresponding letter: " wil Last pand Product la V. Von History CORRESPONDING LETTER!

The Muscle Shoals Association of Missionary Baptist, to her sister Associations in correspondence, sendeth christian salutation: Dear Brethren: We much regret that the number of corresponding delegates with us during the present meeting was much smaller than usual. We certainly desire the continuation of a correspondence with you, and hope at our-next meeting, with the church at Enon, Lawrence Co. Alabama, we shall

have the pleasure of meeting your delegates.

We have chosen our messengers to visit you as usual; we fondly hope you will reciprocate the favor. Our session has been one of much interest; during the year many of our churches have been greatly blessed with refreshing seasons, making an increase by baptism and letter of 490 since our last annual meeting. To God we give all glory.

As ever, Yours Fraternally, L. Clerk. W. H. BARKSDALE, Clerk. R. B. BUREESON, Moderator.

24. The business of the body being now completed, the Association adjourned, by motion, to meet with the church at Enon, Lawrence co. Alabama, on Friday before the first Lords day in October, 1856. The closing prayer was offered by brother Verser, after which the brethren extended the parting hand, while they sang in touching strains that beautiful hymn

"Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in christian love."

and all my R. B. BURLESON, Moderator, P. O. Moulton, Ala.I' Wx. H. BARKSDALE, Clerk, P. O. Leighton, Alamitarchismo gniwol 1. Schola-tie odie ... are to sucured not be sixing it grows actioned have in confugni the same properties of mind ver pesception, remembranes, resent and will. But in some men one or poperties are more largely developed than they are in offer near. And even in the same man the powers of his mind are more clearly seen in mature & than they were in youth. 'Il a reseas for the increase of inenal strength is, we, training and disciplines. These powers of the yearlifid mind are me : happin will book and put in successful operation, in one institutions a battange. While the youthful mind range over the desiring of at an it may conclude that these principles are of last year this court, and may ask after days of hard sudy what use is it and may not bATARAD its of itself a satisfactory, On page 6, at the end of Section No. 12, add: "Therefore, ordered that Gunters"

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AN INTRODUCTORY SERMON,

Dilivered before the Muscle Shoals Association, and published by request of that body, in place of a Circular Letter; embracing an antimate of the control o

Scholnstic Education

The value and importance of education will be seen from the following considerations:

1. Scholastic education increases the mind, not by giving it more properties, but by increasing its powers. All men have in common the same properties of mind, viz. perception, remembrance, reason and will. But in some men these properties are more largely developed than they are in other men. And even in the same man the powers of his mind are more clearly seen in mature age than they were in youth. The reason for this increase of mental strength is, use, training and discipline. These powers of the youthful mind are most happily called forth and put in successful operation, in our institutions of learning. While the youthful mind runs over the elements of science it may conclude that these principles are of but very little utility, and may ask after days of hard study what use is it? and may not be able to give to itself a satisfactory, answer, but then its teacher knows and perhaps its parents know, that this application of the mental powers is only preparatory to an almost infinite expansion. As the body of man grows stronger by use and wholesome food, so the mind grows stronger by use and truth. The greatest men who have ever graced the earth, and have had the applause of the nations of the world, were once utterly destitute of the knowledge that made them great. This knowledge was received into their fruitful minds in very small proportions, or in broken doses. Yet the knowledge of facts received so slowly, and irregularly, being retained and acted upon, constituted them the giants of

earth. Their perception had become so penetrating that they could see the substance through the shadow, and vice versa, could see from the substance in what way the shadow would be cast and the substance in what way the shadow would be cast.

It was from this fact that our ancestors, after securing our liberties were able to make laws by which those liberties should be preserved, and handed down from one generation to another; for which

we feel the deepest and most lasting gratitude.

By education, reason is enlarged so as to weigh all matters as they are presented to the mind. It becomes a safeguard against error and falsehood. When, therefore, truth and falsehood are presented to the mind in a chaotic state, reason weighs them well, and is likely to embrace the truth and discard the falsehood. Hence when false doctrine is presented to the educated man, whose reason is powerful, he will not only detect the fallacy and spurn it from his presence; but he will also rebuke it in others. Hence it is, that so few well educated men, ever in this life are found amongst the low and degraded, having become the subjects of law and inmates of prisons. The majority of educated men, occupy high and honorable stations in our country.

2. A second advantage arising from scholastic education is, that by it men become benevolent, from principle, early in : life. This arises from the nature of the facts that are presented to the mind, The mind is early taught the relationship that exist between men. as men, and nations as nations, a thing of which it would not have been likely to have thought at so early an age, had it not been for ; these youthful studies. In the study of this relationship the mind to is forcibly impressed with the fact that no man is self independent. But that we are all dependent one upon another, for almost every thing that makes us wise and happy on earth, and that we are in ... common dependent upon the productions of the earth, and upon navigation and trade for variety and plenty; and that we are all alike dependent ugon the great and allwise God, for life, temporal and eternal. Who can possess a knowledge of geography and history, mingled with moral science and yet be destitute of the spirit of benevolence? Only he who is deprived of the noblest principle of our nature; and whose selfishness makes everything else yield to its purposes. As a general rule, those who possess the above knowledge, bring the nations of earth to their door and are ever ready to look, over the faults and foibles of their brethren, and minister to the wants of suffering humanity. Thus the educated man feels the great necessity of doing something in life worthy of the name of man; hence, we often find them leaving to their country rich productions of genious, far better than much gold.

3. The third advantage of a scholastic education is that it gives

self respect and cievates character. Educated people generally shifts the majority of vices that are in the world and look with contempt, upon those who practice them. The reason for it is that the editicated are able to reason from cause to effect, and know well to what a miserable and wretched life the practice of vice would lead. Hence, they determine in their calm and thoughtful moments never to indulge in that which would bring shame upon them. Having mind they use it for the purpose of subduing their passions, and controling their entire nature. By this means they show that they are indeed as God made them, above the beasts of the field; guided by reason and not by instinct. Wherever we find an educated people, there we also find love of order, civility and good morals. It is education that raises both individuals, neighborhoods, countries and nations in the scale of being. These things, with many others that are valuable, flow from a good scholastic education.

It is reasonable; then, to conclude, that the man who gives 'his' money for the rearing of our much loved institutions, has made a good investment of his capital. And that he who educates an or-liphan child, has manifested a charity, that well deserves the praison of neighborhoods, and the approving smiles of the great and good, and that he has thus driven back the dark impending cloud that clustered over the youthful mind, and has caused the bright star of "

hope to arise perceptibly in his view.

Those parents, who educate their children have conforred a blessing on them more valuable than the largest of all estates; and those parents thereby bequest to their country, and the cause of God jewels brighter than the gold and silver in Hiero's crown. These jewels are the strong, active and well disciplined minds of their sons and daughters.

A thousand dollars vested in the education of children, at a proper time, is worth more to them in after life than twenty times that amount would be in personal property or real estate. Put your money thus in the minds and hearts of your children and you will have it in safe hands; yea, where no time can waste it, no thief or robber take it away. You will thus give them a fortune, the more of which they speud, the more it will increase, the more liberal they are in giving it away, the more they will be able to give; the more they lavish it upon their friends, the larger will be their increase. There is indeed no spending it. While, upon the other hand, should you neglect the cultivation of the mind and hearts of yout children, and leave to them at your death an immense fortune of this world's goods, for all that you know, it may be for their speedy ruin. Instead of serving the purpose that you designed it to serve, that of rendering them happy on earth, it may only serve to



nake them indolent, profligate, and pests to the community in which they live, and be the introduction to that pathway of vice and crime, which will lead to a reckless and wretched life, a premature and miserable death, having destroyed their health, and having cast their fortunes on the gambler's table and the tipler's counter.

In conclusion, the man who has enjoyed the three fold education of which we have spoken (that is "Pulpit, Sabbath School and Scholastic,") should deem himself happy and count himself amongst the highly favored of heaven. Possessed with all the knowledge. that this training is calculated to impart, accompanied with the grace of God he can step out on the bosom of this mighty globe and with one glance of the eye of his mind, view the broad plains of the entire earth, with all its teeming productions of every order; assending every mountain height, and viewing every valley deep; leaping over every river, rivulet, lake, and running stream, stand by the ocean's side, measure its depth, behold its beauty, and count the number of its inhabitants. Count the people that compose the nations of the earth; understand their languages, manners, customs, and devotional services. Then he beholds the clouds and the air; measures their height, and estimates their weight; makes the winds his chariot and the lightning his news bearer to different nations; mounts above these scenes and scans the mighty heavens with their innumerable multitude of bodies, contemplates their laws, relations and revolutions. In all nature thus he sees the greatness goodness and wisdom of nature's God. Hence, with a heart of gratitude he bows in reverence and cries "My Lord and my God."

JACKSON GUNN.

Table of Churches, with their Delegates, Numbers, &c.

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